



# CITY OF BRAZIL

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BRAZIL MAYOR ANNOUNCES HE WILL NOT SEEK A SECOND TERM

*Brazil, Indiana* Just after one week after the Democrats have taken back the United State House of Representatives, United States Senate, and the Indiana House of Representatives; Brazil Mayor Tom Arthur announced on November 14, 2006 that he will not seek a second term.

Arthur is most proud of the accomplishments he and his administration have acquired during the past three years, which includes:

- Securing nearly \$900,000 in grants
  - \$500,000 for the re-construction of Pinckley Street
  - Thanks to Planning Administrator Brandy Means, \$225,000 for a homeowner rehabilitation program that will repair some 15-20 homes including new roofs, siding, windows, and HVAC systems to lower income families at no cost to them.
  - For the effort of Assistant Fire Chief Jake Bennet, \$93,000 to install an exhaust system to improve firefighter health while maintaining trucks while parked in the bay; new computer hardware to assist in the location and flow data for fire hydrants; to establish a fitness and welfare program for firefighters; and install fire hydrants around the three high rise senior living apartments.
  - \$70,000 in recycling grants to subsidize the city's curb side recycling program and to purchase new equipment.
- Improve City Equipment
  - The purchase of Dura Patcher machine that places a more secure patches to potholes at 1/3 the cost of traditional cold patch.
  - Four snow plows (up from 2 upon taking office on January 1, 2004)
  - Purchased new various other trucks and automobiles, traditionally used ones have been purchased.
- Established a plan to repave streets
  - Spent over \$100,000 in 2005 on widening Wheeler Street, Alabama Street, Ohio Street, and Posey Street

- Invested over \$56,000 to spend in 2007 from the Governor's Major Moves initiative that will allow us to spend \$112,000 on repairs for next year.
- Will present the city council with a plan in 2007 to spend approximately \$2 million on street repairs.
- To be fiscally responsible with taxpayer's funds. Prior to Mayor Arthur's Administration, the city over spent by \$788,902, above their approved appropriations (according to the 2002/2003 Indiana State Board of Accounts Audit). In 2004, the city over spend by \$387,073 (according to the 2004 Indiana State Board of Accounts Audit), a 51% reduction. And in 2005, the city over spend by \$44,752, a 94% reduction from the 2002/2003 audit.
- Provided city employees with a safer work environment. Workers' compensation premiums have reduced by 32% since 2003, saving taxpayers over \$23,000
- Will have satisfied the 2001 Federal Court Order to make city sidewalks ADA compliant, one year earlier than expected. This will free up approximately \$60,000 that can be used on city streets.
- Reduced the amount of loss or unaccounted for water from 292.4 million gallons in 2004 to 249.8 million gallons in 2005, a 13.7% reduction.
- Approved the hiring of a full-time Park Superintendent to maintain and improve the city's greatest asset, our city parks.
- A decrease of 3.1% in reported crime and a 1.8% increase in number of cleared cases by the Police Department. Tagged over 318 abandoned cars in 2004 and 2005, and towed 48 of them.
- Collected over \$1,000 in bad debt accounts in the city's water and wastewater utility.

Arthur is proud of the position he will leave the city when he departs on January 1, 2008. Arthur said the new mayor will see the re-construction of Pinckley Street in 2008 and US 40 in 2011. An extra \$60,000 to pave streets, thanks to the satisfaction of the sidewalk court order. However, Arthur is concerned with the attitude of Indianapolis in not providing local government with the adequate tools or revenue to serve their constituency. The city faces a loss of approximately \$23,000 to \$47,000 in revenue, with no means of replacement, thanks to the Indiana General Assembly's passage of the 2% circuit breaker legislation earlier this year. Arthur said "Unfortunately, this loss in funds has to be made up somewhere. Where do you cut; personnel, services, or street paving? Our budgets and expenditures in these areas are already low."

Arthur is still exploring his next step, but is exploring the option of returning to the classroom or other careers in the private sector. Arthur was a math teacher at Northview High School prior to taking the realm of Mayor in 2004, and currently teaches math at Cumberland Academy (an alternative education facility in the Clay Community Schools system).